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studied and under other circumstances he may require the student actually to point out structures which he thinks he has seen. This instrument is manufactured by E. Leitz.

*Preserving plants in their natural colors.*—In the Botany department of this Institution extensive use is being made of a method for preserving green plants in their natural colors. Fifty per cent acetic acid in water is saturated with copper acetate as a stock solution. To one part of the stock solution add four parts of water and in this boil for ten minutes the plants to be preserved. After this treatment put the plants into four percent formalin for preservation. Fungus spots and insect pests show much more naturally in materials prepared in this way than they do in materials that have been bleached out in the preservative.

*To seal vials and bottles.*—Gutta percha and paraffin melted together give much better results than paraffin alone for sealing corked vials and bottles to prevent evaporation. The gutta percha prevents the mixture from becoming friable.

*Ripening hematoxylin.*—Many text books on histological methods still hold to the idea that hematoxylin stains must ripen at least three weeks before they are ready for use. By adding a small amount of hydrogen peroxide to a stock bottle of newly prepared hematoxylin the stain becomes usable in a very few hours. The minimum time required for ripening by this process has not been determined though the writer has obtained perfect results from Ehrlich's hematoxylin six hours after it was prepared.

*University of Illinois.*  
*Urbana, Ill.*

H. J. VAN CLEAVE.

#### SUPERIOR IMMERSION FLUID

For 4 years V. Jensen, (Hospitalstidende, Copenhagen. Dec. 2, LVII. No. 48) has been using a mixture of alpha brom-naphthelin, 24 parts, with 76 parts liquid paraffin, and has found it extremely satisfactory as an immersion fluid. He tests it to get the refraction index the same as that of the ordinary immersion oil. Its advantage over the latter is: It flows easily; keeps perfectly, even uncovered; can be easily removed at any time, early or late; it does not dry out, and the specimen keeps its color perfectly.